Farming without use of agro-chemicals

3287. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many farmers have been practicing farming without use of agro-chemicals and are getting record production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of a recent publication "Plenty for All" by Prof. S.A. Dhabolkar laying emphasis on use of solar energy and conservation of water with astonishing yields; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Farmers are raising crops with varying levels of plant nutrients. No data have been collected about the farmers not using agro-chemicals at all and, therefore, about the crop yields being obtained by such farmers. However, the long-term fertilizer experiments conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research over last few decades have shown that the soil test based balanced and Integrated use of chemical fertilizers and organics give higher yields as compared to application of organics alone.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India is aware of the publication "Plenty for All" by Prof. S.A. Dhabolkar. In this publication, the Author has laid emphasis on build up of soil organic matter, rain water harvesting, tapping of solar energy and some other Eco-friendly practices both for urban and rural population. Some of the researchable issues in these areas are being pursued by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research through their co-ordinated research projects on micro-nutrients/ organic matter decomposition/dry land agriculture and also through ad-hoc research projects.

Growth rate of foodgrains production during 1992-2000

3288. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate achieved in foodgrains production during 1992 to 2000, year wise;

(b) how this growth rate compares with 1980-1991, year-wise;

(c) whether the policy of structural reforms adopted in 1991 helped agricultural sector; and

(d) if so, how?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The growth rate of foodgrains production during 1980-81 to 1999-2000 is given in the Statement (*See* below). It can be seen that average growth rate of foodgrains during the period 1980-81 to 1990-91 was higher compared to that during 1992-93 to 1999- 2000.

(c) and (d) The average growth rate of GDP during the decade preceding reforms (1981-82 to 1991- 92) for the total economy was 5.24% per annum as against 3.09% per annum of GDP from agriculture sector. For the post reforms period (1992-93 to 1999-2000), the overall average GDP growth rate increased to 6.43% per annum and that of agriculture sector increased to 3.76% per annum. Thus the incremental growth in agricultural sector has largely kept pace with the incremental growth of the economy in the post reform period.

Statement

Growth Rate of Foodgrains During 1980-81 to 1999-2000

(Production: Million Tonnes)

Year	Foodgrains Production	Growth Rate (%)
(1)	(2)	(3)
1980-81	129.59	18.1
1981-82	133.30	2.9
1982-83	129.52	-2.9
1983-84	152.37	17.6
1984-85	145.54	-4.5
1985-86	150.44	3.4
1986-87	143.42	-4.7
1987-88	140.35	-2.1
1988-89	169.92	21.1
1989-90	171.04	0.7
1990-91	176.39	3.1
Average during 1980-81 to 1990-91	149.26	4.79

(1)	(2)	(3)
1992-93	179.48	6.6
1993-94	184.26	2.7
1994-95	191.50	3.9
1995-96	180.42	-5.8
1996-97	199.44	10.5
1997-98	192.26	-3.6
1998-99	203.04	5.6
1999-2000*	205.92	1.4
Average during 1992-93 to 1999-2000	192.04	2.67

*Advance estimates as on 29.06.2000

Support price of cotton

3289. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the support price of cotton was increased last;

(b) the minimum support price of cotton in 1997-98 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the rise in market price of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) of cotton is revised every year. The latest revision was effected in 1999-2000.

(b) The Minimum Support Prices for two basic varieties of cotton for 1997-98 and 1999-2000 are given below:—

(Rs. Per Qtl.)

Year	Basic variety	MSP fixed by the Government
1997-98	F-414/H-777	1330
	H-4	1530
1999-2000	F-414/H-777/J-34	1575
	H-4	1775